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CORN BORER



Issued in the interest of corn-borer control conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State departments of agriculture and State agricultural colleges in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

No. 5

Washington, D.C.

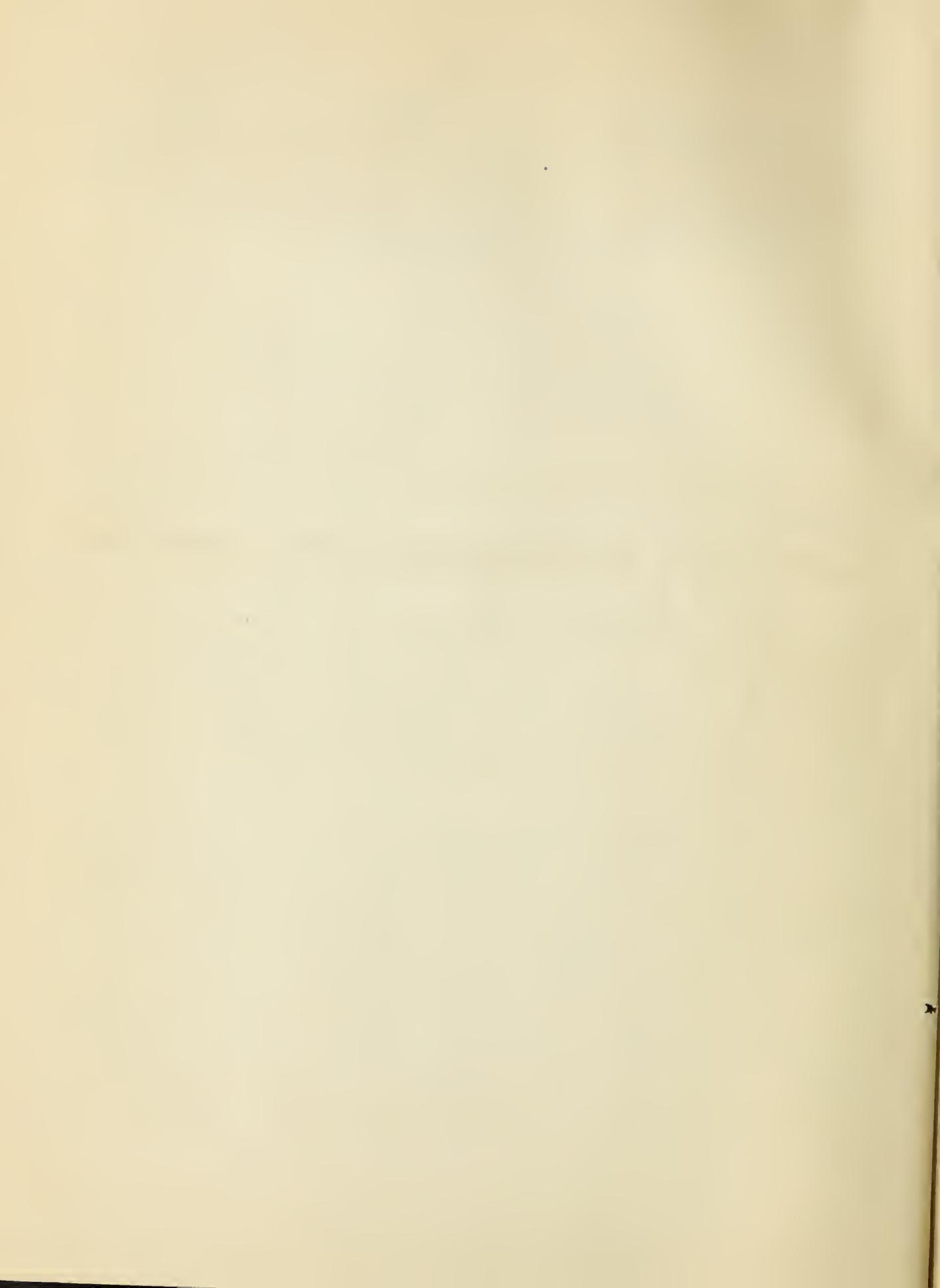
April 23, 1927

LAST CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CLEAN-UP



AY 1 MARKS THE DATE when the regulatory forces will begin the work of cleaning up farms that have not been taken care of by the owners or tenants. Field reports of county extension agents and county corn-borer supervisors indicate that most of the farmers are cooperating to the best of their ability and taking a keen interest in their work. Long-continued rains have delayed the clean-up in some of the States, but every fine day the air has been full of smoke from the burning cornstalks, and everywhere farmers were to be seen plowing their fields.

In Michigan it is difficult to find any fields of corn of appreciable size where the clean-up work has not been started, and most corn-fields are already plowed and in good condition. With very little hand picking these fields will pass inspection. Last reports from Pennsylvania and Indiana indicated that a satisfactory clean-up could be expected before May 1 in those States. In New York the clean-up area includes 20,000 acres of Indian land. In the Indian reservation the work is well under way, with 15 tractors and plows in operation, and will be satisfactorily completed by May 1. Ohio farmers have had an especially difficult problem where oats had been planted on stubble and in the winter-wheat area. The clean-up on this land has been a heavy task and was further complicated by frequent rain. The outstanding need for labor has been met to some extent by the importation of Mexican labor for the necessary hand cutting and picking. Even with these handicaps, Ohio promises to make a good record before the clean-up forces of the Government begin work in earnest.



Only 45 days have elapsed since the launching of the campaign, and during this time practically all of the 300,000 farmers involved have heard the story of the corn borer, have learned the control regulations, and are now making a satisfactory clean-up. At the beginning of the campaign only about 15 per cent of these farmers understood the habits of the borer and how to control it. This accomplishment has been made possible by the vigor and energy of the American farmer who, when he sets out to do a thing, does it.

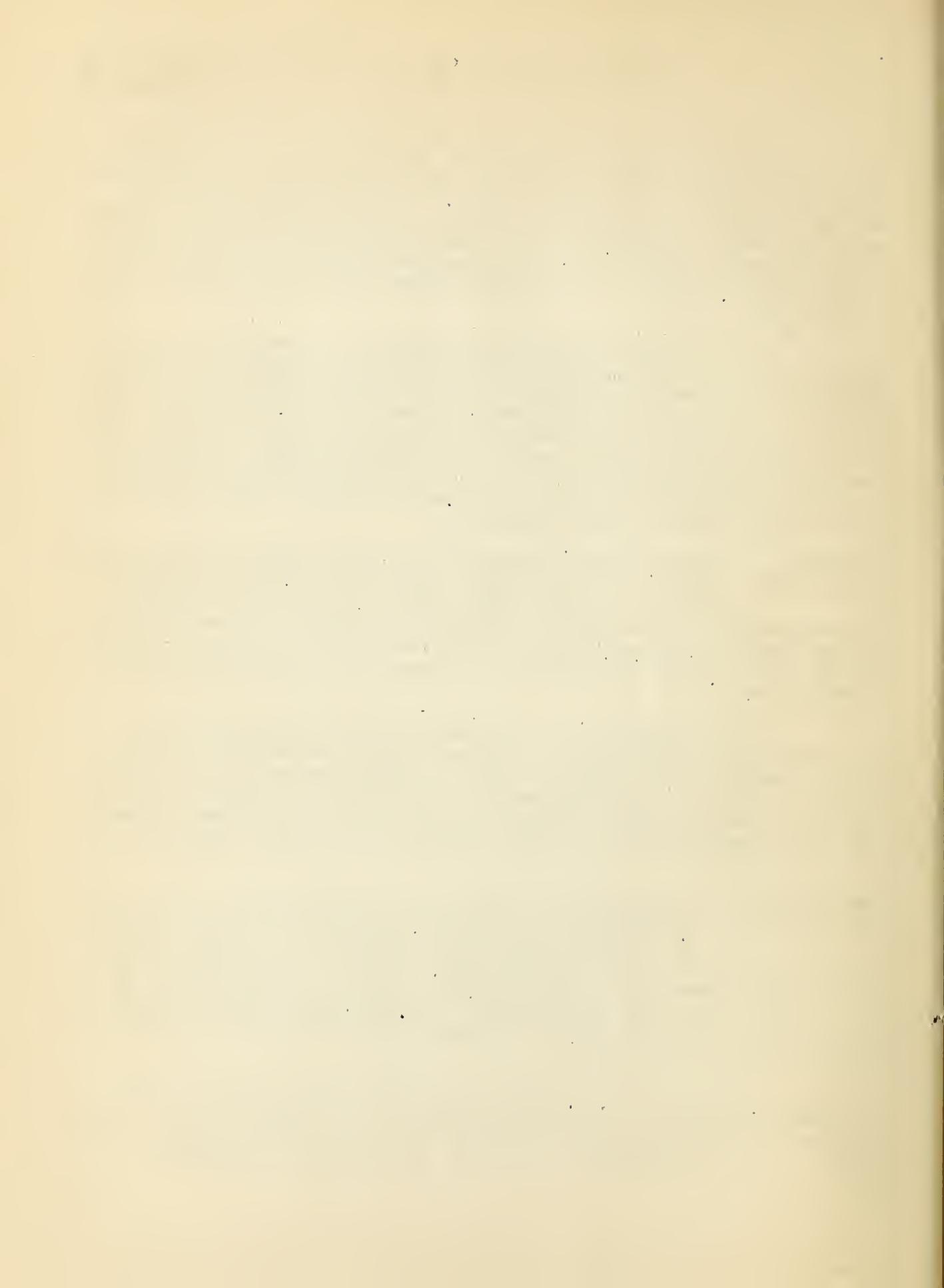
The job of getting the message across to the farmer was done through the extension organization in the States and counties in which the United States Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural colleges cooperate. The plan of holding demonstrations in every county and at least four demonstrations in each township has been carried out. Meetings, personal visits, and every other means at the extension agents' command have been used, supplemented by an active information service handled by the State agriculture college editors, cooperating with the State departments of agriculture and the Federal department.

EQUIPMENT TO THE FRONT Equipment units, comprising a stubble beater and tractor to draw it, are still being rushed to the field as rapidly as possible from the various supply stations, that they may be made available to the farmer in making his clean-up. In Pennsylvania and New York, 100 such units have already gone out to the counties in the control area, reports H. N. Bartley, in charge of the regulatory work in these two States.

In Ohio an effort is being made to divert as much machinery as possible to the stubble in wheat sections of the corn-borer area where need is urgent for the earliest possible clean-up, as the wheat in a very short time will be too far advanced for the efficient use of the clean-up machinery. Equipment from other parts of the control area where the work is nearing completion is being sent to these north central counties to be returned later.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPERVISORS Supervisors in charge of the regulatory work in the three New York counties included in the control area met with H. N. Bartley on Wednesday, April 20, to discuss special field problems and to receive instructions on their responsibilities and duties in the corn-borer control campaign. Those in attendance were Harry V. Hotchkiss, supervisor in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties, Leland Wolfe, supervisor in Erie County, and John S. Stockbridge in charge of the regulatory work in the State.

Pennsylvania supervisors met at regional headquarters in Erie on Thursday, April 21. H. N. Bartley explained the regulations under which they were to work and discussed problems of inspection and clean-up with them. The following men have been appointed supervisors



in Pennsylvania; B. A. Wright, district supervisor in Mercer, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties; Frank D. Henry, Butler County; John G. Crumb, Crawford County; Howard G. Eisman, Erie County; Alexander H. Fullerton, Lawrence County; Joseph A. McElhaney, Venango County; and Williston P. Wood, Warren County.

In Pennsylvania, C. G. Jordan, secretary of the State department of agriculture, took the field himself and spoke in each of the eight counties in the clean-up area at a series of meetings which were largely attended by farmers. He explained the control measures and indicated the part to be handled by the regulatory workers and that to be handled by the educational forces. He was accompanied by R. G. Bressler, deputy secretary, and M. S. McDowell of the State extension division.

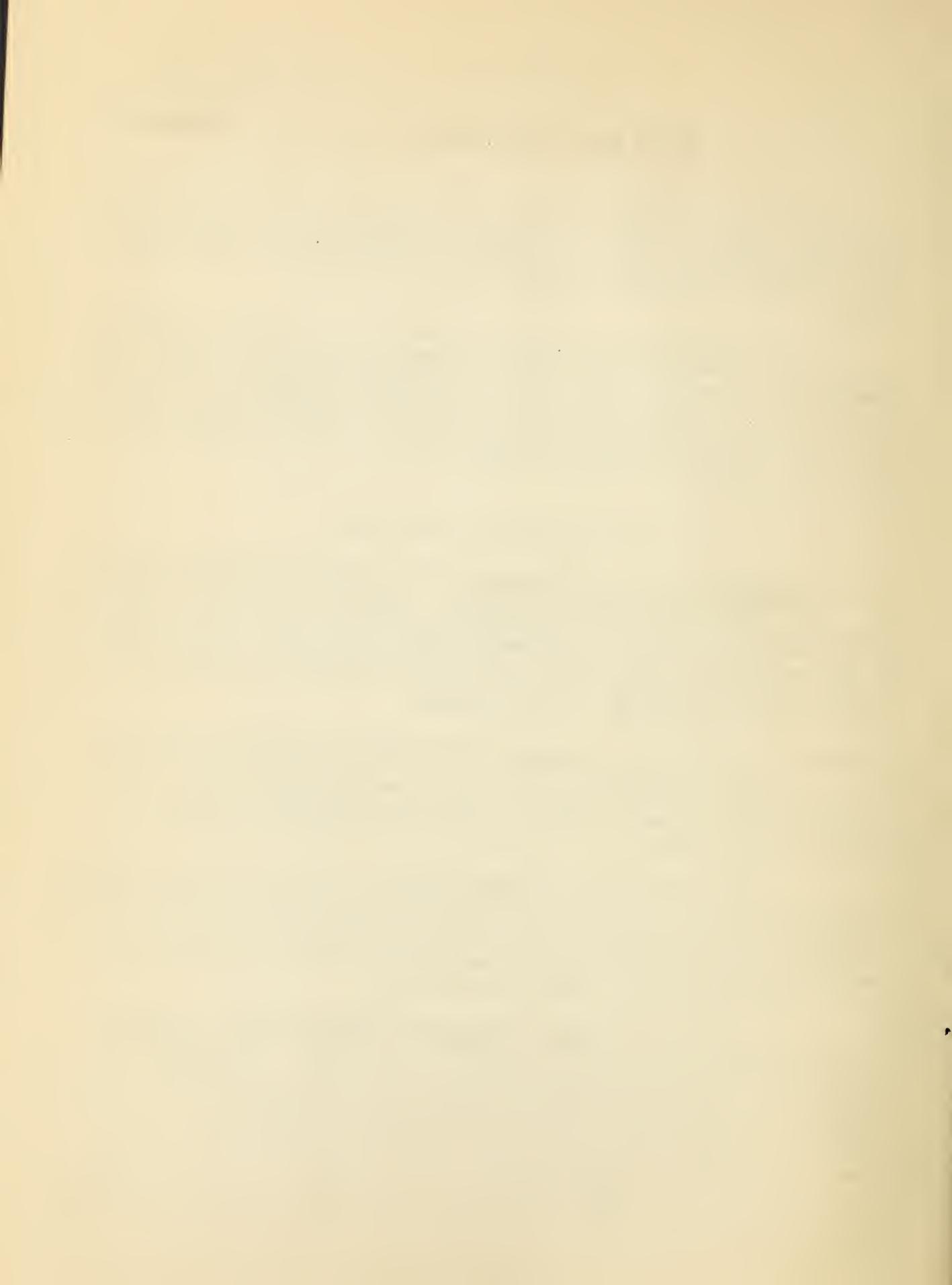
PROGRESS REPORTS IN THE COUNTIES

OHIO Paulding, Van Wert, and Williams counties report splendid progress and hearty cooperation of farmers. Seeding is in progress in Fulton County, but farmers express a willingness to pick by hand later and make a clean job. It looks like a 100 per cent voluntary clean-up there. Ottawa County reports 25 tractor units at work and the campaign progressing very satisfactorily. Ashtabula County farmers are clamoring for service of tractors for clean-up in order to begin seeding.

MICHIGAN The supervisor in Lapeer County states that so far as he knows only two farmers in the county are making any objection to the clean-up, and he expects an almost 100 per cent clean-up by May 1. The only exceptions are small pieces of land for which there is no one locally responsible and which will be cleaned up by the regulatory forces.

The county agent in Genesee County believes that the clean-up in that county will be nearly 100 per cent by May 1. In the first 286 reports coming in, only one man made any objection to the clean-up. Some land around Flint which has been subdivided for city lots will have to be cleaned up, but it is not expected that any clean-up work will have to be done for the farmers themselves in the compulsory clean-up.

Supervisors in Monroe, Livingston, Genesee, Wayne, and Macomb counties report that farmers are intensely interested in the clean-up and are making a hearty response in getting the work done. Hillsdale County reports very unfavorable weather but every one doing his part in the campaign. Ninety-five per cent of the farmers will do their best to clean up by May 1. Calhoun County reports 10 tractors and 10 stubble beaters at work. Farmers are interested, and no opposition has been shown. The county supervisor in Jackson County tells of one farmer who came 10 miles to the freight office before 7 o'clock in the morning to receive a stubble rake in order that he might get to work at once on the clean-up of his farm.



"WHY HAVEN'T WE FARMERS SEEN THESE BORERS?"

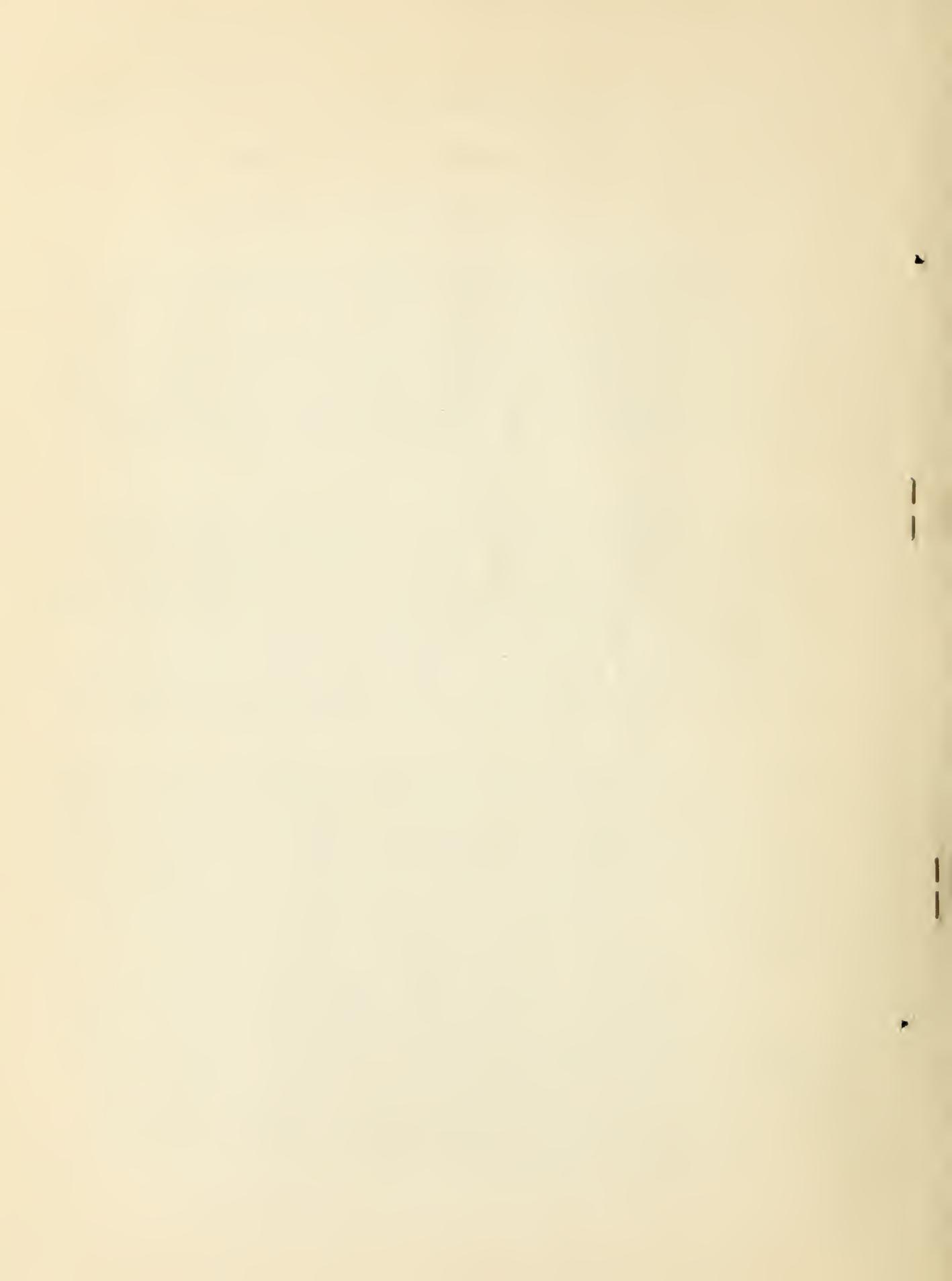
(From Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, Fort Wayne, Ind.)

"Why haven't we farmers seen these borers?" is a question that has been mouthed, hashed, and rumored about over the entire district. "The most of us wouldn't know a borer if the hill it was in was staked out for us," said F. A. Jenkins, of De Kalb County, who operates 240 acres. "Last fall they came down to my farm and reported that they had found three corn borers," said Jenkins, "and I just said, 'Huh! To blazes with the corn borer.' Later they came back and said they had found 50 more, and they staked the hills in which they found them. And would it be all right with me if they had a demonstration on my farm in another week?

"I gave my consent to have the demonstration, but in the meantime I thought I'd go down and take a look at the marked hills myself. The first one I came to I looked it over, I thought pretty carefully, but nothing could I find. Then I went to another one and after looking it over about five minutes I found what looked like a shot hole about a foot and a half from the ground. Then I returned to the first hill and found the holes there. The day of the demonstration they came out, cut the stalks down, and found the corn borers. Later I went to Canada and saw the fields there, and while I was an awful knocker when they first found corn borers on my farm and regarded it as a machinery graft, there's no use of talking, men, we will either have to clean up or be cleaned out."

NEW BORER BULLETIN The latest information on cleaning up the corn borer by plowing is given in the new Michigan corn-borer bulletin now ready for distribution. The bulletin is entitled "Plowing for European Corn-Borer Control," and is by H. H. Musselman, head of the engineering department, Michigan State Agricultural College. It tells how to adjust ordinary farm machinery for use in borer control and thoroughly discusses the use of trash wires or chain, preparation for plowing, and the final clean-up. The publication is Michigan Extension Bulletin No. 55.

OUTSIDE THE CONTROL AREA States and counties outside of the control area are taking measures to keep the borer out of their territory. West Virginia farmers are being urged to take every precaution to prevent the borer's spread, and three northern counties have already been placed under quarantine. The State legislature of Iowa has appropriated \$200,000 for research work to stop the borer. Indiana farmers in the northern part of the State have offered to clean up their corn-stalks on the chance that there might be some borers, and Pennsylvania counties outside the control area have organized corn-borer protection clubs. One county in Illinois discovered the borer, and the State took immediate measures to stamp it out.



MAYORS ISSUE PROCLAMATIONS In Indiana the mayor of each city in the control area has issued a proclamation urging the clean-up of all city gardens before May 1 and emphasizing the necessity of a thorough clean-up of all garden corn patches. To each of the mayors of the 133 cities of more than 5,000 inhabitants in the control area, a letter has been sent telling of the control regulations and requesting their cooperation in the campaign.

The fire of the fight against the corn borer can now be seen in city and village gardens where small gardeners are diligently cleaning out the corn borer. Not only the small corn patches but corn refuse around canning factories, broom factories, and other process agencies comes under the regulations and is rapidly being cleaned up for the inspection on May 1.

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR "Spread and Infestation by the European Corn Borer During 1926" by L.H.Worthley, Administrator in Corn-Borer Control, and D.J. Caffrey, Entomologist, Bureau of Entomology, has been issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The circular "is intended to inform corn growers concerning the details of the situation and to recommend control procedure for the spring work, particularly in areas where the corn borer may be expected to increase in 1927 unless such control practices are adopted universally." The publication is known as Miscellaneous Circular No. 104.



Uncle Ab says it's getting so that the village pest who insists on telling his troubles is now known as the corn borer.

